

housing support, educational funds, and mental health services.

While in college, she experienced firsthand the impact of age requirements for former foster youth to receive assistance, a problem she would like lawmakers to pay attention to, to better help the former foster youth in our district.

There are several other young people that are here with me today. Jennifer Martinez is a former foster youth from Los Angeles who is now a foster youth advocate.

Amber Rosado-Esteves entered the child welfare system when she was 14 and aged out when she was 18, and now she is very successful in college.

Anthony Vizcarrondo spent 10 years in foster care, from the ages of 6 to 16, in California's Central Valley. His placements included foster homes and juvenile hall. Anthony is a strong foster youth advocate who is focused on expanding educational opportunities and child welfare reform.

Between her placements in foster care and being behind by 19 credits, Lucinda "Lucy" Langley thought she had no chance of graduating high school. But after years of hard work, that is exactly what she did.

Sapphire Murphy Powell also joined us all the way from New Zealand.

We need to understand, as a country, and as a Congress, that when we address the child welfare system, this is a way of preventing these children from becoming homeless. In the city of Los Angeles alone, we have 50,000 people who sleep on the street every night. We have tents all over our city, and in those tents, there are thousands of young people who aged out of the foster care system when they were 18 or 21. Essentially, what we have done as a society is cut them off of resources, and they wind up on the streets, they wind up incarcerated, or they wind up trafficked. This is a failure of the system, the system that we are responsible for.

Our country is the richest country in the history of the world, and there is no excuse for us not to take care of the half million young people in the foster care system. This is why we need to transform the system.

#### HONORING TERRY DICKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Dickson for his achievement of being named a recipient of the American Patriot Award.

During the Vietnam war, Terry served as an infantry squad leader in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and received the distinction of the Combat Infantryman Badge for his incredible service.

After his service, he began a career at the Florida Times-Union where he became an award-winning newspaper

photographer and wrote pieces on a wide variety of subjects.

Terry has worked at The Brunswick News in my district since 2019, where he continues to work as reporter, photographer, and pens a weekly column.

Terry has received many awards at the local, State, Federal, and even international levels for his work, both in columns and photography.

Among a list of incredible past recipients, Terry is adding his name onto an honorable group of American patriots.

The American Patriot Award is a given to a veteran who has served their country with distinction and continued that throughout their career.

Terry is the epitome of this award, serving tremendously in the Vietnam war and as a journalist following his service.

I congratulate Terry for receiving this incredible award. He deserves it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACCREDITATION BOARD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board, FLETA, as they celebrate their 20th anniversary on July 1, 2022.

The FLETA board of directors, located in my district, is comprised of 28 senior officials from varying Federal law enforcement agencies, academia, and professional organizations.

Since the FLETA Board's inception, more than 75 training organizations, spanning from 47 agencies and 10 departments across the executive and judicial branches of the Government, have submitted training programs for voluntary review and have sought accreditation through FLETA, in which they have completed 389 of those assessments.

The FLETA Office of Accreditation is one of smallest entities in the Federal Government, with only seven Government employees. Yet, they have an extensive impact on Federal training and operations.

FLETA assists law enforcement agencies in virtually every department of the Federal Government, improving operations through the implementation of more effective and efficient training tactics.

The mission of FLETA is more important now than ever before. This agency's efforts are demonstrative of good government in action, practicing accountability through self-regulation, which exhibits the transparency that Americans expect of their government.

On behalf of the citizens of Georgia and this distinguished body, I once again congratulate FLETA on their 20th anniversary and wish them much continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING DON HOGAN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend, Don Hogan, a State house representative, a county commissioner, and a fellow Bulldog.

Don received an education from both Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia.

He has served as a board member of the Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, president of the Saint Simons Chamber of Commerce, area commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America, and on the advisory council of the Coastal Area Planning and Development Commission.

I am honored to recognize Don as the 42nd recipient of the Alfred W. Jones, Sr. award. This award is given each year to honor a person whose selfless lifetime commitment, contributions, and achievements have positively impacted our community and its people.

After many years of service, Don has decided not to run for reelection this November and will be going into retirement after a lengthy career of service to others.

I know Don is looking forward to spending time on his family farm, fishing, and telling stories sitting on the porch of his 150-year-old log cabin.

It was a pleasure and an honor to spend time with Don in the Georgia State legislature. I thank him for everything he has done for our State, and he should enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

#### AMERICAN FAMILIES ARE SUFFERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, with gas prices at or above \$5 per gallon, Americans are feeling significant pain at the pump. In a recent survey of my constituents, 89 percent said they have had to change or cancel their summer travel plans due to the surge in gas prices. What a shame.

I have also heard stories about how the gas prices, coupled with crippling inflation, have eaten into my constituents' savings and made it extremely difficult for families to make ends meet. These are the realities families throughout our country are facing. Yet, this administration and many of my colleagues in this Chamber appear to be out of touch with these concerns.

Instead of taking action to relieve the pain at the pump, President Biden and Congressional Democrats continue to blame, deflect, and justify the irresponsible decisions that have caused gas prices to spike.

Earlier this week, the President said: "Out of everything lousy, something good will happen if you look hard enough for it."

"We have a chance to make a fundamental turn toward renewable energy, electric vehicles—and not just electric vehicles but across the board."

No, Mr. President, record-high gas prices are not a good thing. It is disingenuous to act as though you are powerless, Mr. President, to do anything to address gas prices. My constituents do not want to suffer while this administration and Congressional Democrats continue to pursue a radical, green agenda.

President Biden has already done enough damage. From his first day in office, he canceled the Keystone pipeline and paused all domestic leases and sales. He has tried to blame everyone from Putin to price gouging and private industry.

But the facts are clear. The Biden administration is currently sitting on over 4,400 pending applications for permits to drill which must be approved so American workers can produce more American-made energy. That makes sense. In addition, Biden's regulatory and inflationary burdens are thwarting the creation of new large-scale refineries which are also needed to increase production. The Biden climate czar, former Senator John Kerry, said last week that we don't need any more domestic drilling. My constituents and I beg to differ.

Prior to President Biden assuming office, the United States was a net exporter of energy, and the price of gas dipped below \$2 a gallon. The greatest Nation on the face of the Earth should never have to rely on Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran, Russia, or any other hostile nation to meet its energy needs. It is also not realistic to believe we can transition to a green economy overnight without significant cost to consumers.

However, we can regain American energy independence, create American jobs, and lower prices at the pump by implementing the pro-growth, commonsense policies of the previous administration, which is why I have co-sponsored the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. Unfortunately, House Democrats have blocked this critical bill seven times on this very floor. That means they are blocking energy solutions for lowering gas prices by boosting domestic energy production. This includes resuming the Keystone XL pipeline, restarting oil and gas leases on Federal lands and waters, and requiring a plan to replace the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that has been drained by this administration. It is just not right.

I don't know what message my colleagues' constituents on the other side of the aisle are sending to them. But back at home, the message has been very clear. What are their constituents telling them? From my constituents, the message is extremely clear. My constituents want Washington to stop its obsessive spending of money we don't have to push a green agenda, and they want lower prices at the pump. We need to do it now. It is urgent that we do it. It is critical that we do it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not a perceived viewing audience.

Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### THE INFLATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, on September 1 of 1980, inflation was at almost 13 percent. On that day, then Governor Ronald Reagan said: "Recession is when your neighbor loses his job. Depression is when you lose yours. And recovery is when Jimmy Carter loses his." Unfortunately, today is looking a lot like 1980, and the Carter and the Biden Presidencies share far too much in common.

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President Biden has unnecessarily spent trillions of dollars, spiking inflation into a 40-year high of 8.6 percent. As a result of this inflation, American households will pay an additional \$7,620 as they buy gas, food, and other things over the next 12 months—\$7,620 annually.

Since Biden became President, real wages are down 4.2 percent while mortgage rates have doubled, have gone up 2.4 points. Our economy shrank 1.4 percent last quarter, and many economists now agree that these signs point to an imminent recession.

The President now points to the Federal Reserve to get him out of the inflation mess that he created. Today, I will point out what that may mean and talk about the challenge that the Fed faces to rein in inflation.

I have a chart here with me that compares the Federal funds rate, which is its benchmark interest rate, and inflation rates over the past 60 years. If you look at the chart, you will see two lines on the graph showing inflation and the Fed rate. Each time that the Fed looked to reduce inflation, they increased the interest rate, and they have increased the interest rate each time above the current inflation rate.

So, for example, in the early 1980s, which I mentioned earlier, following President Carter's era of stagflation, the Fed raised rates to a record high of over 16.5 percent to reverse what was 13 percent inflation at that time. So once again, this would suggest that for the Fed to do its job and rein in inflation, it will need to increase interest rates above our current rate of inflation.

So far this year, the Feds have raised the Federal fund rate three times, most recently with a .75—or  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent—increase, which is the highest increase since 1994, but the Federal funds rate still only sits between 1.5 and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  percent.

Current rates are  $1\frac{3}{4}$  percent, and again, inflation is 8.6 percent and climbing. This suggests that the Fed has a long way to go in raising interest rates, and has a lot of work to do ahead. What isn't shown in this chart—and sometimes I am not sure if the Biden administration understands—are the consequences that come with raising rates.

Our economy will slow down, and it will be harder for Americans to start

small businesses and to purchase homes. We are already seeing that happening. The cost of living will increase, and Americans will see hard times. This did not have to happen.

President Biden overinflated an already recovering economy by spending trillions on the American Rescue Plan, which included market-distorting policies that unnecessarily subsidized demand while restricting supplies by paying people to stay home.

Now, as I said, the President is relying on the Fed to fix it but, unfortunately, it is the American people who will be paying the consequences.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MARY E. WHEELER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of my dear friend, Mrs. Mary E. Wheeler of Yorkville, New York.

I came to know Mary in a role no one ever wishes to have, that of a Gold Star mother. Mary's son, Private First Class Joseph Keith Wheeler, a United States marine, was killed in combat on March 31, 1968, in Quang Tri Province in Vietnam, at just 18 years old.

Mary and her family were devastated by the loss of Joseph. But through Mary's pain, she found great purpose to support other Gold Star mothers and their families, as well as Active-Duty members, veterans, and their loved ones.

Mary was active until the day she passed in the American Gold Star Mothers Chapter 56 in Utica, New York. This led to Mary being national president of the American Gold Star Mothers from 1999 through 2000, meeting Gold Star mothers and families from across this Nation and interacting with political leaders of both parties in Washington for commonsense policy to support veterans and their families, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, like her dear son, Joseph.

Mary was heavily involved in other veteran service organizations, such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, and countless other organizations in our community, including the Whitestown Senior Center and the Salvation Army, which she supported her entire life.

Mary was also dedicated to her family: her late husband, Charles; her children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Mary's great-grandson, Shaun, and her great-granddaughter, Skylar, have a special place in my heart as Skylar's grandmother, Felicia, was my longtime administrative assistant for over 25 years. They all were a very important part of my life, and I considered them family. So I had another connection to Mary through her great-grandchildren.

Words cannot do justice to the many contributions by Mary throughout her